2. There had been delay in fabrication of these vans on account of:—

(a) Procurement of Van's Chassis

(b) Preparation of technical specifications/design and model and finalisation of the same,

(c) Inviting of tenders,

(d) Finalisation of lowest tenderer,

(e) Assigning the job to the lowest tenderer

(f) Periodical inspection and scrutiny of the fabrication job as per specifications,

(g) Withdrawing of 3rd chassis from the contractor when it was noticed that the party was delaying the fabrication job,

(h) Awarding the job to another contractor by floating fresh tenders and observing all the formalities.

3. The C A G. in its report had observed that the expenditure incurred towards pay and allowances of the staff members was infructours since the units could not perform exhibition activities.

4. The Staff members of the Calcutta Van soon after the van became inoperative, were deployed for conducting general exhibition programmes (as a General Unit). Throughout the period, the unit remained occupied while action at Headquarters went on for providing the new van to the units.

5. The staff members of other remaining two units were employed before receiving the vans to do preliminary work. They had to be paid their salary as they were in position.

Jharkhand issue

209. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha has given an ultimatum to the Centre to meet the demand of statehood within a few weeks; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) No such ultimatum has been received by the Central Government from the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha.

(b) Does not arise.

Closing of Indian Embassy in Fiji

210. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the present Fiji Government have moved to close down the Indian Embassy in SUVA; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Our Embassy was closed on May 24, 1990.

(b) Government of India has reiterated its resolve to continue its support for the democratic movement in Fiji and to take all opportunities to voice it's opposition to racial discrimination whatever it's form and wherever it is practised. A statement expressing Government's reaction was laid on the floor of the House on May 24, 1990.

Law and order situation in J & K

211. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the law and order situation in Jammu and Kashmir has been worsening day by day; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring back normalcy and to restore peace in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) The Law and order situation in Jammu & Kashmir is difficult. The Government